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MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN

EDITED BY

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VOL. 1, NO. 2
MAY, 1915

THE MINNESOTA STATE ARCHIVES THEIR CHARACTER, CONDITION AND HISTORICAL VALUE[1]

Archives are public records. Broadly speaking, they are those documents which reflect the official life of a community. Defined more specifically, they are the books, papers, or plans, either written or printed, which are used in the official business of any public office and are the property of the state or community.[2] The archives of Minnesota may be classified as state (including territorial) and local. It is with the territorial and state records that this paper is concerned.

The archives of a territory or state are usually kept at the seat of government. In Minnesota numerous changes in the location of the territorial headquarters during the first few years resulted in a constant shifting of the records. Governor Ramsey, who took up his official residence in St. Paul, June 25, 1849, kept the executive office, for a time, in his house on Third Street between Robert and Jackson. Rooms were secured for the other territorial officers and for the first legislature, which convened September 3, 1849, in a little two-story log building on Bench Street, "The Central House"—a far cry from the magnificent capitol of the present time. The three succeeding legislatures had little better quarters. In January, 1851, the second assembly met in a brick building on St. Anthony Street between Washington and Franklin, on the spot where the well-known Metropolitan Hotel later stood. The third legislature came together in 1852 in the Goodrich Building on Third Street just below Robert. The fourth assembly met the next year in the Chouteau Building, a two-

[1] Read at the stated meeting of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, April 12, 1915.

[2] Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Records, *The Laws Relating to the Public Records and Public Documents,* sec. 5 (Boston, 1913).

story brick structure situated on the corner of Third and Minnesota.[1]

These first legislatures were greatly interested in the question of a suitable building wherein to house permanently the new government. One of the difficulties, the securing of a site, was solved by the gift of a tract of land by Charles Bazille to the territory on June 27, 1851.[2] Building operations were begun within a month, but the structure was not completed until 1853.[3] The transferring of archives to the new building dates from July of that year when some of the offices moved in. The fifth legislature met there January 4, 1854.[4] For twenty-seven years this capitol housed a slowly accumulating pile of records: documents telling the official story of the development of territory and state. In 1881, on the eve of the dissolution of the legislature, fire suddenly broke out in capitol and in a short time the building was practically destroyed. Fortunately most of the records were saved. There were those who thought that the fire was incendiary in origin, a supposition never proved. The citizens of St. Paul, fearing that the fire might mean the reopening of the old question of the location of the state capitol, equipped the barely completed Market Hall in a night. This Market Hall served as the seat of government pending the reconstruction of the old capitol.[5] It was July of 1883 before the last office returned to the rebuilt structure and the archives had a central resting place again.[6] The increase in the business of the state soon made these quarters inadequate and in 1893 a capitol commission was appointed by the legislature to plan, build, and furnish

[1] J. Fletcher Williams, *History of the City of Saint Paul and County of Ramsey, Minnesota,* 224, 227, 235, 284, 321, 333 (*Minnesota Historical Collections,* 4); *St. Paul Pioneer Press,* July 27, 1898, p. 3.

[2] *Ibid.;* Williams, *History of St. Paul,* 144, 291.

[3] *Ibid.,* 308.

[4] *St. Paul Pioneer Press,* July 27, 1898, p. 3.

[5] *Ibid.;* William Watts Folwell, *Minnesota, the North Star State,* 325 (*American Commonwealths* series).

[6] *St. Paul Pioneer Press,* July 27, 1898, p. 5.

a new building. As a result of its activities, the corner-stone of the present capitol was laid July 27, 1898, and in 1905 the new building was occupied.[1] Most, if not all, of the official records of the state were removed to the new capitol, but as new departments were established, it became necessary to reoccupy the old building. Thus, at the present time, the archives of the state are to be found in the old and new capitols, with the exception of those of the state highway commission, which has its office in the down-town district.

The public archives commission of the American Historical Association has been conducting investigations for some years with a view to ascertaining just what public records exist in each state, and has been publishing reports of the progress made. Minnesota is one of the few remaining states where, until recently, no such work has been done.[2] The commission, acting in coöperation with the Minnesota Historical Society, is now engaged in making such a survey of the Minnesota archives. Since the printed material is readily accessible and fairly well known, the present preliminary investigation has been confined to a survey of the manuscript records.

One who has not gone from office to office and from room to room can have little appreciation of the aggregate bulk of valuable material which the state has accumulated since its early days. The mass has constantly increased in volume, and its proper care and supervision is a problem which administrative officials are facing to-day. The archives thus far covered by the present survey include, in the new capitol, those of the governor, the secretary of state, the auditor, the attorney-general, the insurance commissioner, the dairy and food commissioner, the game and fish commission, the superintendent of education, and the clerk of the supreme court; in the old capitol, those of the department of labor and industries, the department of weights and measures, the drainage commission, and the live stock sanitary board. For the purpose of showing

[1] *St. Paul Pioneer Press,* July 27, 1898, p. 5; Folwell, *Minnesota,* 343.
[2] American Historical Association, *Annual Report,* 1912, p. 241.

the character of the existing documents, some of the more interesting records in the offices of the secretary of state, the governor, and the clerk of the supreme court will be considered in this paper.

The secretary of state is the recording officer of the state and, as such, is the official custodian of many documents. He is aided in his general duties by an assistant secretary and eight clerks.[1] The archives are kept in an office, an office vault, a document room with two vaults, a shipping room, and two sub-basement vaults. They may be classified as legislative, election, census, executive, corporation, bond, and land records, correspondence, and miscellaneous documents.

Among the legislative records are the original and engrossed bills which later became law, dating from 1849 to the present time, the bills which did not become law, the enrolled laws from 1858 to date, and the journals of the house and senate from 1849 to date. It will be noted that the enrolled laws for the territorial period are lacking. The file of bills which did not become law is also incomplete. The election records are not so extensive as the legislative. The returns for federal, state, and county officers are broken files, the last being the most complete. Other interesting election records are returns of primary elections and papers connected with election contests. Both of these files are of comparatively recent date. In this office are to be found the original records of the decennial censuses taken by the state since 1865, and, in addition, copies of the United States schedules for Minnesota for the years 1850, 1860, and 1870. Financial accounts connected with the census appear to have been preserved for the 1905 census only. The executive archives in this department contain a complete record of civil appointments made by the executive department from 1849 to the present date and also registers of other official acts of the governor, such as proclamations.

[1] *Legislative Manual of the State of Minnesota*, 1915, p. 233.

It is the duty of the secretary of state to keep a record of the various kinds of corporations, domestic and foreign, which do business in Minnesota. Files of these corporation records date from 1857 to the present time; the railroad companies, however, because of their importance, have received a separate classification. Other interesting documents are the affidavits of the publication of official notices by newspapers, the records of the incorporation of churches, registers of trade-marks, and correspondence. Bond records include the oaths of territorial and state officials, bonds of county officials and notaries public, the records of the board of commissioners of the Minnesota railroad bonds, and peddlers' bonds. The documents relating to the county officials are not so complete as the others.

Valuable land records in the custody of the secretary of state are the original United States government field notes of surveys, which have been turned over to the state. These amount to several hundred volumes. A portion of the field notes have been copied by the state, but the copies are said to contain numerous errors. There are also a large number of plats relative to land grants, dating mostly from 1860. The correspondence archives are largely in files, arranged according to subjects. Under the heading miscellaneous may be included reports and papers of the printing commission, the shipping department, and various other departments, and papers relative to the Vicksburg and Shiloh monuments.

The governor is the chief officer of the executive department of the state and is aided by a secretary and such other assistants as are necessary for the carrying-out of the duties of the office.[1] The archives of the department are kept in two vaults adjoining the reception room and in a third vault in the sub-basement. They may be classified as constitutional, election, executive, and legislative records, records of notaries public, extradition and pardon records, official reports and communications to the governor, correspondence, and mis-

[1] *Legislative Manual*, 1915, p. 233.

cellaneous papers. An interesting constitutional document is the original constitution of the state with signatures. Among the election records are the certificates of election to the constitutional convention of 1857, petitions for establishing election precincts in 1851, and the schedule of votes on the constitutional amendment of 1872. In the executive archives is found a complete register of important acts of the governor, such as proclamations, important letters, notices of appointments, and messages of the governor to the legislature during the territorial period. The legislative records contain numerous bills vetoed by the governor and letters relating to laws exchanged with executives of other states during the territorial period. The notarial records contain numerous letters concerning appointments. The extradition and pardon records include testimony given in trials, applications for pardon and for restoration to citizenship, and papers concerning the execution of criminals. The official reports and communications to the governor include reports of various offices and departments extending over a long period. These files are incomplete. The largest series of documents in the governor's office is the correspondence, arranged in general and special files. This mass of material has to do with a variety of subjects, such as application for office, military affairs, taxation, relief, relations with the government at Washington, changes of county seats, world's fairs and expositions, internal improvements, and exchange of documents with other states. Among the miscellaneous records are those pertaining to financial accounts, papers of the attorney-general, press clippings, and the Minnesota register from the centennial exposition at Philadelphia in 1876.

The supreme court dates from territorial times. Originally it was presided over by three justices. This number was later raised to five and, in 1913, two commissioners were added. The court has both original and appellate jurisdiction and meets twice a year, in April and October, in the new capitol.[1]

[1] *Legislative Manual,* 1915, p. 258.

The records of the supreme court, in the custody of the clerk, are housed in three offices and an adjoining vault and are quite complete. They consist, in general, of rolls of attorneys, files of papers concerning cases, judgment books, registers of actions, order books, minutes of the court, naturalization records, correspondence, and miscellaneous papers.

The roll of attorneys contains the signatures of lawyers acting as attorneys and counselors of the court, affixed to an oath faithfully to perform their duties as such. The original ledger, dating from 1858, is still in use. The files of papers concerning cases contain the records of over nineteen thousand cases which have been brought before the court. The triplicate records of the court, showing the legal progress and deposition by the court of each trial, are in so-called judgment books, registers of actions, and order books, ranging from territorial times to the present. The naturalization archives contain a variety of papers concerned with naturalization matters, which formerly were under the jurisdiction of the supreme court, but which are now handled by the district courts. A few boxes of correspondence, mainly recent, were found. The miscellaneous records consist of fee accounts in connection with the court, exhibits in trials, and papers concerning the records of cases in the lower courts. The latter, upon the handing-down of a decision by the supreme court, are returned to the courts from which they were appealed.

In discussing the condition of the archives of the state, the preservation of the records will be considered first and then the manner in which they are arranged and classified. The question as to what records have been preserved can not be accurately answered in a preliminary survey of this sort. Nevertheless, an intimate acquaintance of several months with the documents themselves enables one to draw certain conclusions in the matter. A survey by departments discloses varying conditions; for the duration of the office in question, the character of its duties, the amount and nature of the space available, and the attitude of the officials are only part of the

determining influences in the drama of the preservation of any document after its current life is over. A close examination of the archives shows gaps existing in various files, but some of these are due to changes in method of classification, and the records still exist. For example, under one official, separate files of correspondence on certain topics will be kept; later, all correspondence will be thrown into a general file and the use of separate files discontinued; later still, perhaps, the correspondence will again be arranged in files by subjects.

Actual losses of documents have occurred, however. These have been due to fire, to the attitude of officials, and to the use of poor materials in the original making of the records. Though some minor conflagrations have taken place in the buildings where the daily history of the state has been kept, the only fire causing a loss of records concerning which definite information is available was that which partially destroyed the state capitol on March 1, 1881. The fire broke out a few minutes after nine in the evening, at a time when both houses were in session, and spread so rapidly that in a short time the building was untenantable. "Nevertheless, in the time given, the work of rescuing the records, archives and numberless documents stored in the various rooms was carried forward with lightning-like rapidity. There were hundreds of helping hands and from every room and passage, a busy crowd kept going, laden with bundles of written matter, books, furniture, pictures, carpets, lamps, desks and office fixtures and, in short, any and every thing portable and in the least valuable." Some civil war records from the adjutant-general's office, a few legislative bills lying on the table in the governor's office, some cases from the desk of the office of the clerk of the supreme court, three fourths of the books in the library, and some books from the rooms of the superintendent of public instruction and from the offices of the railroad commission were burned. A more serious loss, however, occurred in the document room of the secretary of state. This room was forgotten in the confusion, and a mass of general and special

laws, of executive documents, and journals was entirely consumed.[1] The fireproof vaults of the building contained numerous other archives which were found intact after the fire.

A serious problem which has had a bearing on the attitude of officials towards the preservation of records has been the lack of proper accommodations for them. In territorial times the bulk of the records was so small that there was no difficulty about housing them. But as the state grew older, as its business increased, and as its activities widened, the lack of adequate space in which to keep the archives became more and more of a problem and is now a constant complaint met with in the rounds of the departments. The enlarging of rooms, the building of vaults within offices, and the taking-over of spare areas in the sub-basement of the capitol have only partially relieved the situation. Some officials, in their efforts to solve the problem temporarily, have destroyed those papers which seemed to them no longer necessary for administrative purposes. The correspondence files have suffered rather severely from this method of solution. The removal of the state offices to the new capitol seems to have been an occasion for the destruction of some documents. A valuable series of letter copies going back to the early days of the state and containing material which can never be replaced, appears to have disappeared at that time. Ignorance of the value of original records has also played its part in the loss of archives. The destruction of various original inspection documents is an example. In some cases, where printed reports were made, the preservation of these was deemed sufficient and the originals were destroyed. The failure of officials to preserve records admits of defense, perhaps, where it can be shown that they are of little or no value, but too often, apparently, the

[1] *St. Paul Pioneer Press,* March 3, 1881, p. 5. The document clerk in the office of the secretary of state contradicts the statement of the *Pioneer Press.* He says that hardly any papers were lost from his office. Such important files, however, as the enrolled laws of the territory appear to be missing and were probably destroyed at that time.

decision as to the worth of a document has been left to those who were not qualified to judge.

Another important factor in the preservation of records is the character of the paper and ink used in their construction. A failure to provide for some uniformly efficient practice in this respect has caused some documents to deteriorate through the mere passage of time. Fading ink and disintegrating paper tell the story. Correspondence of which a copy was desirable was everywhere kept, previous to the day of the typewriter, in copy and letter-press books. In Illinois and other states, where the archives are older, a great deal of money has been spent in copying old records in order to preserve them. Generally speaking, the letter-press copies of Minnesota previous to 1880 and, in some cases, so far down as 1890, are illegible; as a result valuable material on matters of interest is lost to posterity.

Thus far the causes of the actual loss of records have been considered. Attention should be called to the fact that those which remain are not altogether safe from destruction. Many of the archives are kept in vaults, the presumption being that in this way they are protected from dampness and from fire; but whether they are so safeguarded depends in each case on the vault in question. The office vaults in the new capitol are safe, but this is not true of those in the sub-basement. Certain vaults there are formed by the shutting-off of spaces, enclosed on three sides by walls, on the fourth by a wooden lattice. These vaults serve for ordinary purposes, but do not protect their contents against fire or against flooding by water. In one instance a large storeroom in the sub-basement is utilized as a vault; until it was repaired two or three months ago, the ceiling was leaky and the floor had rotted away in places. A few vaults have barred windows opening on the corridors; these would not keep out fire and water. Instead of being equipped with double doors, which offer the best protection against fire and water, the majority of the vaults in the sub-basement have only single steel doors. In the old capitol, as

may be easily learned from an inspection of the building, the records in the offices and many of those in the vaults are in constant danger from fire. Some of the vaults in the basement are reasonably fireproof. The Minnesota Historical Society has three so-called vaults there, only one of which is properly designated. The existence of two windows, protected only by iron shutters, and plaster falling from the ceiling are among the undesirable features of this vault. The remaining two are simply rooms with wooden doors. In some of the basement vaults in both the old and new capitols, doors are left unlocked or ajar for the sake of convenience. Documents housed in such vaults are not properly protected.

Still another menace to the archives is their exposure to dust and dirt. Even in one of the best of the vaults a clerk claims to have raised a crop of potatoes in the dust every spring. Some records are lying on shelves with no protective covering and a few documents are already in bad shape for this reason. In two offices the older documents are placed in galvanized tin boxes, a practice which has much to commend it. Elsewhere, heavy paper and pasteboard boxes are used; these perishable coverings gradually fall apart; the dust and dirt, sifting in on the manuscripts, makes the writing illegible, and, after a time, the documents are valueless. One vault was found with no lock to the door; the records in it, an extensive series of correspondence, were piled against one wall in letter boxes, many of which were in a bad state of decay; the rest of the room was filled with a débris of wooden boxes and books. Vaults in so bad a condition as this are, fortunately, rare.

The manner in which archives are arranged and classified determines in a large degree their value for historical or administrative purposes. A study of the Minnesota archives discloses many systems of filing. As far as current records are concerned, each department, for its own purposes, has its documents well arranged and accessible. The older archives show varying conditions, ranging from admirable systems of classification to none at all. Two self-evident reasons for this

state of affairs are the great bulk of the documents and the lack of room wherein to arrange them properly. Other important reasons are errors in classification, the lack of indexes, the misplacing of documents, the physical inaccessibility of files, and the unfamiliarity of officials with their older records.

One vault was found in which no attempt to classify the records had been made. The floor was heaped waist-high with printed reports. Among them was a series of manila folders, some of which were broken open, containing original reports, correspondence, and other matters relating to the department. These records, irrespective of the conditions in which they were found, were in themselves filed according to no recognizable system. In some cases, records had been classified originally, but the work was poorly done. In other cases, the original arrangement may have been satisfactory, but, with a change in officials, new methods of filing were instituted. Where this has happened several times, the records are in a confused state. Again, the system of classification may be clear, but there may be an omission of dates, making the chronology of documents difficult. Titles, or any indication other than internal evidence as to the character of a record, are often lacking. Pasted labels have frequently dropped off. Actual mislabeling is met with often enough to be annoying. This is usually due to the practice of dumping out old files and using the boxes which contained them for new material without changing the original titles.

The work in some of the offices is occasionally hampered by the lack of proper classification of the archives. It is said that a clerk in a certain department spent, on one occasion, as much as a week in looking for a document among the older records, and then failed to find it. If the archives in question had been properly arranged and classified, it would have been a comparatively simple matter to have found the document or to have ascertained its non-existence. Aside from the annoyance and trouble caused by the failure to find older documents, the amount of time wasted in searching is worthy of considera-

tion. There are indexes for single vaults in a number of departments, but there ought to be indexes for every room or vault where archives are kept in any amount.

Even when a proper system of classification has been adopted, it takes constant care and watching to keep it up. It is a common story among officials that persons desiring to examine certain documents have removed them from the files and either have failed to return them or have put them away in the wrong places. In such cases, the library principle that a book misplaced on the shelves is a book lost holds good. On the occasion of the erection of the new capitol, the question came up as to whether the old capitol site had not been a conditional gift and would not revert to the heirs of Charles Bazille if the capitol should be removed. It was important, therefore, to find the original deed. A search was instituted, but it could not be found. It was hoped in 1897, when an inventory was taken of the documents in the treasurer's office, that the deed would come to light. Eventually it was discovered by accident in the office of the secretary of state, where it had been misplaced in a file.[1] Outside interference occurs sometimes in other ways. Thus, when surprise was expressed at the use of two gunny sacks as containers for a large number of territorial records, the explanation was offered that a janitor had probably needed the boxes in which they had previously been stored.

The practice of keeping supplies and records in the same vault is productive of confusion and, at times, makes the records difficult of access. In one office vault a flooring of boards, supported by the tops of two steel filing cases, has been made. Piled on these boards as high up as the ceiling and extending back about five feet was found a valuable series of correspondence records; to get at them, the writer was obliged to balance on the top of a stepladder, his head between two boards, and move the boxes aside one by one. The official in charge should not be criticized for such conditions; rather

[1] *St. Paul Pioneer Press,* July 27, 1898, p. 3.

should he be commended for displaying such ingenuity in filing his records. He had no other place for them. Another department, because of the lack of space in its quarters, uses a legislative committee room for the storing of a considerable portion of its records. When the legislature is in session, the lock to this room is changed, and the records are temporarily inaccessible. Another official said that there was a vault containing some of his older archives in the sub-basement, but that the key to it had been lost.

The character and the amount of the state archives, the conditions under which they exist, and the extent to which they have been classified have been considered. There remains the question of the value of this material. Records are useful both in an administrative and in an historical sense. The administrative value often passes with time, but the historical value, depending rather on the content of the documents than on their use, is more permanent. Age, in fact, often increases their historical importance because of the destruction of other materials from which the same information might otherwise have been gained. It is with the historical value of archives that this paper is concerned.

Students of history are interested to-day not only in the lives and deeds of great men, but also in the actions of the majority, in what the average man thinks and feels. The content of the state archives is valuable for the writing of history from both of these points of view, and, it must be remembered, is practically untouched for these purposes. If this material could be made available, valuable and interesting information along political, economic, social, military, legal, and many other lines could be gained.

Take, for instance, such a topic as the political influence of the Scandinavians in Minnesota. In the census schedules appear the actual names and locations of the Scandinavians in the various portions of the state. The naturalization records in the office of the clerk of the supreme court tell what proportion of the Scandinavians became citizens from year to year.

From election statistics could be determined how many of them ran for office, how many were elected, and, to some extent, the parties with which they were affiliated. The journals of the house and senate would show how many Scandinavians were in the legislature, and which of them were members of important committees, in short, would tell the story of their general activity in legislative affairs. The original and engrossed bills would disclose what bills introduced by Scandinavians became law and in what types of legislation they were interested. From the applications for civil appointments and from the registers of executive acts could be told what proportion of the Scandinavians have held civil office. The correspondence files of the various departments would throw further light on the subject.

A study of the Minnesota railroad bonds would furnish an interesting subject of research for the student of economics. He would find information in the correspondence, the vouchers, warrants, and land records of the auditor's office; in the bond records of the treasurer's office; in the election, legislative, bond, and correspondence records of the secretary's office; and in the papers of the attorney-general. The case records in the office of the clerk of the supreme court and the correspondence of the governor's office would be additional sources of information.

A valuable monograph in social history could be written concerning the various relief projects of the state. In the governor's archives are a large number of manuscripts pertaining to the grasshopper devastations, consisting of applications for relief, offers of contributions, reports of conditions from county auditors, orders for relief, and papers relating to the furnishing of grain to the settlers. Information on the subject could also be gained from the vouchers and warrants in the auditor's office, from the original and engrossed bills, from the bills which did not pass, and from the journals of the house and senate in the office of the secretary of state.

Considerable material could be gathered on the subject of

the relation of the people of Minnesota to the Indians from the reports of Indian depredations by army officers, from petitions for protection, and from miscellaneous correspondence received by the governor.[1] These sources of information could be supplemented by the Indian pension records in the adjutant-general's office consisting of applications for pensions and by lists of pensions allowed. Legislative records in the secretary of state's office would also furnish information on this topic.

Interesting legal studies on the relations of the state with the various corporations could be made from the records of the attorney-general and from the cases of the supreme court. Other studies for which information exists are the development of the railroads, the rise of the lumber industry, the settlement of government and state lands, conditions in various factories and industries, the educational development of the state, and the reclamation of swamp lands.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that, although valuable material for the history of the state is contained in the archives, such material, under present conditions, is not readily available for use. The problem, then, is, what disposition shall be made of the archives so that they may be accessible both to officials and to students of history. The same problem has been met elsewhere in various ways. One plan is to place the older records in the charge of a commission and to erect a suitable building where they can be housed and afterward classified and catalogued as rapidly as possible. Another plan is to place the records in the charge of the historical society or state librarian. Much has been accomplished along these lines in the eastern and southern states and especially in Iowa. The experience of these states as well as that of foreign countries, where the problem is much older, demonstrates that the essential element in its solution is the concentration of non-current archives under the jurisdiction of an official or institution specifically charged

[1] As an illustration of the value of the material which is available in the archives of the governor's office, a letter found among the miscellaneous correspondence is given below, page 54.

with the duty of caring for them and making them accessible. In Minnesota the most feasible procedure would seem to be for the legislature, upon the completion of the building for the Minnesota Historical Society, to empower the society to take over, classify, and catalogue such of the older archives as are no longer useful in an administrative sense. This would mean, for officials, the placing of their records where they would be under the constant care of trained attendants and where any document would be instantly available. For students it would mean the throwing-open for use of a vast amount of valuable material for history, relating not only to the state but also to wider fields.

HERBERT A. KELLAR

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MINNEAPOLIS

DOCUMENTS

A Typical Letter from the State Archives

Mr. Kellar, in his article in this issue of the Bulletin, calls attention to the historical value of the material in the state archives. The letter given below, taken from the files of miscellaneous correspondence in the office of the governor, will serve to illustrate his point. This is but one of thousands of documents of the utmost value for the study of nearly every conceivable subject in Minnesota history which have never been used by historical students and can not be used by them to any considerable extent until some better provision is made for the care and classification of the state archives. The letter throws light on conditions which prevailed among the refugees after the Sioux massacre of 1862. This memorable outbreak, coming suddenly after years of friendly intercourse and at a time when the state was doing its utmost to send its quota of volunteers to reinforce the federal armies, found the garrisons stationed on the borders of the Indian reservations reduced in numbers and ill prepared to check the first raids of the Indians. Terror-stricken, the surviving inhabitants of the outlying settlements fled to New Ulm, Mankato, St. Peter, and other river towns. The problem of housing and feeding these refugees became a most serious one, and an appeal was finally made to the state authorities for assistance.

Saint Peter Aug 29 1862

Hon Alex Ramsey Governor,

Dear Sir:

Messrs Hezlep and Ketchum of this place are sent to urge upon you prompt measures for providing food and other necessaries of life for the thousands of refugees now gathered here and at other points in this vicinity.

Many of them have lost all they had in the world, and almost

all of them must be supplied with clothing and provisions. Messrs H. & K. will inform you fully how this has been and is being done. We think every possible measure has been taken to secure promptness and economy in relieving want.

But there is a limit to the means of our citizens, farmers and merchants, and some government, either State or National, should immediately come to our help, or we shall *all,* an impoverished and starving people be in St. Paul Knocking at your doors. I cannot command language to paint to you the necessities of the emergency for *prompt and efficient action.*

The food and clothing, fuel and bedding is being taken from our houses, the goods from our stores, the grain and vegetables from our fields, to feed and supply this immense crowd of homeless, starving, naked people,—*some* of them, I am almost inclined to say to you, made so by want of proper energy in sending relief; or rather in *going* to their relief, for no one can find any fault with the action of the State Administration in sending.

The suggestions made in the letter of Gov Donelly dated "Tuesday 10 A. M." at this place, meet with our entire approbation.

If Capt Saunders will not, as U. S. Quartermaster, provide for these people we urge you to appoint a State Quartermaster who will do it, and see that our citizens are remunerated for necessary expenditures already incurred. Any other plan, however, that is more in accordance with your judgment and will answer the same End, will be equally acceptable to us.

Begging however that your action in the premises be *immediate,*

I am most respectfully your obt servant

HENRY A SWIFT[1]

[*Endorsed:*] Henry A. Swift Aug 29, 1862 report of the condition of things at St Peter

CONSCRIPTION IN ENGLAND DURING THE NAPOLEONIC WAR

The suggestion that England might possibly resort to conscription in the present war lends especial interest to the following document, which is one of several presented to the Min-

[1] Henry A. Swift was at this time state senator from the nineteenth district. The following year he was elected president *pro tempore* of the senate and became lieutenant governor on the resignation of Ignatius Donnelly; when Governor Ramsey resigned to take his seat in the United States Senate, Mr. Swift succeeded him as governor, serving from July 10, 1863 to January 11, 1864.

nesota Historical Society by John Bowe.[1] It will be noted that the names of two members of the Bowe family appear among the signatures to the document. The marks preceding the names are not to be taken as an indication that the signers were unable to write. Each signature is in a different handwriting, and the mark was probably used to add formality to the document.

Minutes of an Agreement entered into by the several subscribers to these Presents being Inhabitants or propriators of Lands or Ocupyors of Lands Tenements or hereditaments in the Township of Benaldeth of the one Part and Thomas Westray of Benaldeth of the other part Wittnesseth that Whereas the said Thomas Westray is Balloted to serve in the Militia or Army of reserve and must either serve himselfe hire a Substitute or pay his fine and whereas he the said Thomas Westray was entered into a Club which depossided a small sum of Money towards hireing a substitute which said Money is very far short for the said purpose and in order to Incourage and Assist him to hire a Substitute unmarry'd or one with only a very small family that is one whose family is not likely to be chargable to our said hamelet in consideration of which we whose Names are hereunto Subscribed or marks made Do hereby severally agree to give the sum set opposit our respective Names to the said Thomas Westray or order If he hires and gets sworn in a Young Man unmarryd as is abovementioned a Substitute to serve in the Malitia or Army of Reserve, And It is further agreed by the said parties to these presents that If the Law Compels or can Compell the said hamelet or township to pay any part of the said Money for hireing a Substitute as is abovementioned, All such as have or hereafter may Subscribe any Money to this agreement shall have such money considered as part of payment to the Rate that we may be compeled to pay by the said Law as is abovementioned In Wittness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands this 10th Day of August in Year of our Lord 1803.

		£	S	D
×	Mungo Simpson	1	1	
×	John Pingney Jr	2	2	

[1] See page 65 below.

		£	S	D
×	Willil Rowlandie [?]	0	10	6
×	W^m^ Bowe	1	1	
×	W^m^ Greenhow	1	1	
×	John Swinburn	1	1	
×	John Pingney	0	10	6
×	William Bowe Junior	0	10	6

Funeral Expenses in England a Century Ago

The following document, also from the Bowe papers, presents an interesting side light on funeral customs a hundred years ago. The information about prices of various commodities is also of considerable interest. It is noteworthy that the smallest item in each list is the payment to the parson. The document is here published primarily to illustrate the fact that so apparently worthless a paper as an old statement of accounts may become with the lapse of time a valuable source for social and economic history.

Money laid out By John Bowe for the Funeral of John Dryden

	£	S	D
A Coffin Plaite	0	5	0
Shroude	0	8	6
Makeing Shroude	0	2	6
Half a pound of Tobacco and pipes	0	2	10
20¼ pounds of Chease at 8 pence a pound	0	13	6
4 pounds of White Suggar	0	5	4
half a stone of Brown suggar at 9 D	0	5	3
A Quarter of a Stone of sugar at 10 D	0	2	10
Thre pounds of Candels	0	2	7
peper	0	0	4
A Stone of Barley	0	4	0
half a pound of Black tea	0	4	0
half a pound of Green tea	0	6	0
A Gallon of Rum	0	16	0
A Gallon of Gin	0	14	0
A Quarter Cask of Ale	0	17	6
Parson one Shilling and Clark	0	5	0
Bread	1	7	0

	£	S	D
Coffin	1	2	0
A Quarter Cask of Ale for the sale	0	13	0
A Quarter of a stone of sugar	0	2	7
Nutmeg and paper		1	4
	9	1	1

December 13, 1816

Money laid out by John Bowe for the Funeral of Sarah Dryden

	£	S	D
A Coffin	1	2	0
Coffin Plaite	0	4	3
Shroude	0	8	4
Makeing Shroude	0	2	6
Bread	1	0	0
A Quarter Cask of Ale	0	12	6
A Gallon of Rum	0	16	0
A Gallon of Gin	0	14	0
Sixteen pounds of Chease at 8 D per pound	0	10	8
Eight pounds of Butter at 9½ D	0	6	4
Paid John Fisher Grosser for sugar			
Candels Tobacco &	0	18	8
Tea	0	4	9
A Stone of Barley	0	4	0
Parson	0	1	0
Clark	0	4	0
A Quarten of More Tea	0	2	0
A Stone of Flower		6	4
Bread		3	0
A pound Butter		0	10
Ten Pounds of butter at 10½		8	9
	8	9	11
	9	1	1
	17	11	0

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Surface Formations and Agricultural Conditions of Northwestern Minnesota (Minnesota Geological Survey, *Bulletin,* no. 12). By FRANK LEVERETT. With a chapter on Climatic Conditions of Minnesota by U. G. PURSSELL. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota, 1915. vi, 78 p., maps, plates, diagrams)

This report, describing in much detail the surface formations and soils of the northwest quarter of Minnesota, is based on field work covering a period of eight years, conducted by Mr. Frank Leverett, United States geologist, in coöperation with Professor F. W. Sardeson and other specialists connected with the work of the Minnesota Geological Survey. Two additional reports of similar scope, treating of the northeastern quarter and the southern half of the state, are expected to be ready for publication within a year.

Accompanying the report is a large folded map, drawn to the scale of eight miles to an inch, showing the areas of the various formations, comprising the glacial and modified drift, lacustrine and alluvial deposits, and great swamps. Exceptional features noted are the beach ridges of gravel and sand marking the shore lines of the glacial Lake Agassiz, a broad tract of alluvial silt along the Red River, and very extensive areas of swamp adjoining Red Lake and stretching northward, with slight interruptions, to the Rainy River and the Lake of the Woods, and thence west to the Roseau lake and river. The only noteworthy hilly tracts are the complex series of marginal moraines, usually bearing many boulders, amassed at the border of the waning continental ice sheet, where its melting was slackened so that the border was for several or many years nearly stationary or sometimes readvanced. Associated with these moraines are many large and small areas of outwashed gravel and sand plains. Esker ridges of gravel are mapped in only two places, one being about two miles south and the other about seven to twelve miles east of Perham.

Rock outcrops are shown only at one place on the Rainy River, near Manitou, and at a few places on the Minnesota part of the shores and islands of the Lake of the Woods. This quarter of the state, indeed, has the fewest rock exposures; its eastern limit is about thirty miles west of International Falls, and its southeast corner is near the center of Crow Wing County.

It would be of great aid to those who can not conveniently consult other maps and descriptions giving details of the altitude and contour of this region, had there been inserted on this map figures indicating the height in feet above the sea level of lakes, rivers, and railway stations. Such notation would show, for instance, the height of Red Lake to be 1,176 feet; of the water divide in the vast swamp about six to eight miles north of the lake, about 1,195 feet; and of the Lake of the Woods, 1,061 feet. A somewhat elevated tract, named Beltrami Island, having an area of 1,167 square miles above the contour line of 1,200 feet, lies northwest of Red Lake, above which its highest part rises 135 feet. Instead of a sense of altitude, however, the traveler, accustomed elsewhere to see hills and mountains, receives in nearly all of this region an impression of a country quite monotonously low and flat.

For what Minnesota lacks in scenery she has adequate compensation in her fertility of soil, in her wealth of forest and iron ores, and in her salubrity of climate. Within the area covered by this report lies the most notable agricultural district of the state, the wide and very flat Red River Valley, where wheat and all crops adapted to this latitude yield in unsurpassed abundance, while no climatic conditions of occasional and exceptional droughts, or of too heavy rains, or of frosts in the growing season, have ever caused a general failure of crops.

For the determination of the various factors in immigration, agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and every phase of industrial, educational, and moral advancement, probably the weather, all that we call climate, exercises more important guidance and control than even the topographic features of a country, the geologic conditions of underlying rocks, and the chemical composition of soils. The history of any land is influenced in largest degree by the climate, and secondarily by the geologic structure. Therefore the historian may very advantageously study the care-

fully compiled climatic records of Minnesota graphically shown by a series of nine small page maps of the state and by ten tables of weather statistics presented in the second chapter of this report by Mr. Purssell, the United States weather observer in Minneapolis.

Another interesting page map shows the diverse sheets of the glacial drift, the loess-covered driftless area, and the bed of Lake Agassiz; and the last of the series delineates the areas of forest and prairie, the latter occupying the southern and western third of this state.

WARREN UPHAM

English Lutheranism in the Northwest. By Rev. GEORGE HENRY TRABERT, D.D. With an introduction by Rev. G. H. GERBERDING, D.D. (Philadelphia, General Council Publication House, 1914. xiii, 184 p.)

This book is an account of the beginning and growth of the English Lutheran Church work in the northwestern states. Since immigration from the northern European countries began to decrease, the great problem of the Lutheran Church has been to adjust itself to the conditions created by the rapid Americanization of its young people. The transition among immigrants and their descendants from a foreign language to English necessitated the organization of English congregations if these people were not to be lost to the Lutheran faith. As early as 1856 Rev. William A. Passavant of Pittsburgh visited Minnesota and made plans for establishing English Lutheran churches. Definite action was deferred, however. The great stream of immigration as well as the Civil War diverted attention from the English work. In 1881 Dr. Passavant, as chairman of the home mission committee of the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America, made two visits to Minnesota and secured a location in Minneapolis for an English church. The result was that the home mission committee called Rev. George H. Trabert of Salem Church, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, to go as a missionary to Minneapolis. His report to the general council of a preliminary trip in April, 1882, is here reprinted in full.

The work was begun in the spring of 1883. Rev. Trabert has been a pastor in Minneapolis since that time and has taken a

prominent part in the expansion of the English Lutheran work. The present volume is largely a personal narrative of his experiences. Considerable progress has been made, and at present the general council has two English synods in the Northwest. These are the English Synod of the Northwest and the Pacific Synod. Scandinavian and German pastors have not supported the English movement with much enthusiasm. In late years, however, the Scandinavians especially have been pushing forward rapidly, and it is to be regretted that Rev. Trabert does not deal more fully with the progress of English work in the Scandinavian synods. The annual reports of these church bodies contain valuable data on the subject.

Rev. Trabert's book is an important contribution to the history of the Lutheran element in the Northwest. It is especially valuable in connection with the problem of the transition from the foreign to the English language in its relations to Lutheranism. "While much more should have been done," says Rev. Trabert, "it must be borne in mind that it was pioneer work, inasmuch as it was begun practically at the beginning of the transition of the several foreign languages into the English" (p. 158). Rev. Trabert believes that the "differences of nationality and of language will soon step into the background" and that the Lutheran Church in America, one in language and faith, has a great future.

A few errors are noticeable. Rev. Trabert has no authority for claiming that his was the first English Lutheran congregation northwest of Chicago. An English Lutheran mission was started by the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States of America in Portland in 1869. The name "Sverdrop" (p. 36 and repeated on p. 37) should be Sverdrup. The index to the book is very inadequate.

T. C. BLEGEN

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

MEETINGS

The principal business at the meeting of the executive council on March 8, 1915, was the consideration of the proposed new by-laws. The draft reported by the committee on revision at the February meeting was taken up in detail by the council in committee of the whole and a number of amendments were incorporated, after which the new by-laws were formally adopted by the council. The charter and amendments and the by-laws have been printed in pamphlet form and distributed to all members of the society. They are included also in the appendix to the *Eighteenth Biennial Report.*

No formal business was transacted at the stated meeting of the council on April 12, because of the lack of a quorum. The meeting was thrown open to the public, and an audience of about thirty listened to the paper by Mr. Kellar which is printed in this number of the BULLETIN.

At a called meeting of the executive council, held on April 29, three resolutions were adopted. The first of these authorized and directed the executive committee to purchase and convey to the state the "Lamprey property, being known as lot number 3 in block number 1 of Central Park addition to the city of St. Paul, at a price not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars cash, or securities satisfactory to the owner in an equivalent amount, to be used as a site for the building to be erected for this society." The second resolution authorized and directed the executive committee "to represent and act for the society and the executive council before the board of control, governor of the state, and other state authorities, and in all other respects and matters pertaining to the construction and erection of the building for the society, its equipment and furnishing and plans and specifications therefor." Still another resolution adopted at this meeting defined in a comprehensive way the duties and powers of the executive committee under the new by-laws.

Building Progress

On April 16, 1915, the Governor signed an act amending the historical society building act of 1913, which removed all difficulties in the way of prompt construction of a building for the society. The original act with the amendments effected by this act incorporated is printed in the appendix to the *Eighteenth Biennial Report*. The essential changes are: (1) the elimination of the supreme court from the building and the provision for the care of the state archives therein; (2) the crediting of the thirty-five thousand dollars paid by the society for the Merriam site toward its donation of seventy-five thousand dollars and a provision allowing the society to select and purchase another site and receive credit for the amount so expended toward the donation.

Too much credit can not be given to the legislative committee and especially to Messrs. Ives (chairman), Sanborn, and Ingersoll for securing the passage of the measure. Valuable assistance was rendered also by members and friends of the society throughout the state. Hon. F. A. Duxbury of Houston piloted the bill through the senate, the vote being 47 to 2. In the house, a place on a special order was secured through the courtesy of Hon. Elmer E. Adams of Ottertail; the purpose of the bill was explained briefly by Hon. J. B. Sanborn of Ramsey; and it passed by a vote of 78 to 30.

As soon as possible after the bill was approved by the Governor, the executive committee of the society held a joint session with the board of control to consider the question of procedure under the act. Mr. Clarence Johnston, the architect of the board, having reached the conclusion that the so-called Lamprey site would be large enough for the proposed building, the society purchased the site and caused it to be conveyed to the state. This ensures an excellent location on Cedar Street facing the lawn in front of the Capitol and in conformity with the original plan for the development of the capitol approaches. After several conferences between the architect and the executive committee tentative plans were agreed upon, and the architect is now at work upon detailed plans and specifications.

GIFTS

Many books, pamphlets, circulars, manuscripts, pictures, and museum articles are donated to the society by its members and friends, who realize that they can thus ensure the permanent preservation of the material. Only a few of the more interesting and valuable gifts received during the first four months of 1915 can be noted here.

John Bowe of Canby, Minnesota, presented to the society twenty-two old books, manuscripts, and curios. One of the books is printed in the Coptic language and one in Chinese. Another is a small geography in Spanish, printed at Barcelona in 1889 and used in the schools at Columpit, Philippine Islands, at the beginning of American occupation. Most of the manuscripts are old English documents and several of them are written on parchment. The oldest bears the date of February 15, 1698. Two of the more interesting of the manuscripts are printed elsewhere in this number. Among the curios are a petrified book taken from St. Pierre near Mount Pelée; a piece of featherweight wood from Porto Rico; a piece of white rock from King Solomon's mines, said to be the same material as that used in the Temple of Solomon; alabaster from the mosque of Mohammed Ali at Cairo, and a carved stone from the Dead Sea. Especially interesting is a copy of the issue for July 4, 1899, of *Freedom,* an American newspaper published in Manila. This contains several articles by American soldiers describing experiences in the Philippines, and a playlet entitled "Such is Life in Manila."

Mr. Fred A. Bill of Minneapolis, president of the Read's Landing Association of the Twin Cities, presented to the society thirty-five reproductions on postcards of old pictures of Read's Landing and vicinity; also a copy of a manuscript written for the North Dakota Historical Society on "Steamboating on the Red River of the North." Mrs. Bill presented a copy of the initial number of the *Waumadee Herald* published at Read's Landing with the date of May 9, 1857. The editors of this paper, Joseph and William McMaster, were brothers of Mrs. Bill. The number was not actually issued until May 12 and on the afternoon of that day Joseph McMaster and another brother, Thomas,

were drowned while sailing on the Mississippi. The second number of the paper was issued by Norman E. Stevens, August 15, 1857. This information is gleaned from a manuscript account of the paper and its editors written by Mrs. Bill to accompany the copy presented to the society.

General C. C. Andrews, an honored member of the society, from whom it has received many donations, presented eleven bound volumes of manuscript reports and communications from town fire wardens, rangers, and others, made to the forestry commissioner of Minnesota during the year 1910. He had previously presented a similar set of reports for the years 1895 and 1896 in ten volumes. General Andrews was forest commissioner and chief fire warden from 1895 to 1911; in 1911 he was appointed secretary of the newly organized state forestry board, a position which he still holds.

Seven sacks of government documents were received from Hon. Frederick C. Stevens, member of Congress from 1897 to 1915. Such of these as prove upon examination to be duplicates of volumes already in the library will be turned over to the St. Paul Public Library.

Through the kindness of Adjutant-General Fred B. Wood, the society received from Dr. Brewer Mattocks of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a collection of swords, badges, and medals used or collected by him during the Civil War. Dr. Mattocks was hospital steward of the Second Minnesota Volunteers from June 27, 1861 to June 30, 1863, and assistant surgeon of the Seventh Minnesota Volunteers from June 30, 1863 to August 16, 1865.

The society has received from the Minnesota House of Representatives an engrossed copy, handsomely bound in full leather, of the resolutions adopted by that body, March 10, 1915, on the death of Mrs. Chester G. Higbee. Mrs. Higbee was suddenly stricken in the Capitol on the evening of March 4 at the close of a stirring appeal before the house prison committee, urging the establishment of a woman's reformatory in Minnesota, a project for which she worked earnestly for many years. It was peculiarly fitting that the body before whom Mrs. Higbee had so often

appeared in behalf of delinquent girls and women should authorize the preparation of this memorial volume, "a permanent record of her gentle life and splendid achievements."

Through the courtesy of the Librarian of Congress the society has secured a copy of a very rare pamphlet entitled *Rural Sketches of Minnesota, the El Dorado of the Northwest; Containing Full Descriptions of the Country—its Productions, Villages, State of Society, &c.; Together with a Series of Letters upon Northern Wisconsin, its Appearance, Improvements, &c.; with a Table of Distances,* by H. W. Hamilton (Milan, Ohio, C. Waggoner, printer, Tribune office, 1850. 40 p.). The society already possessed a manuscript copy of portions of this book made by former secretary J. Fletcher Williams from a copy borrowed from the Wisconsin Historical Society for that purpose. When it was discovered a short time ago that there were two copies of the pamphlet in the Library of Congress, a request was made for one of them, and the librarian was kind enough to authorize its transfer on exchange account. The *Rural Sketches* consists of letters written by a young Ohioan who traveled through the region described in August and September of 1850. They tell of the trip from Chicago to Minnesota and contain accounts of St. Paul, St. Anthony Falls, Stillwater, and other villages in the territory. The return trip was made by way of the Mississippi, Wisconsin, and Fox rivers, and the villages along the route are described. Intimate details of social conditions and comments on individuals add spice to the narrative.

Another pamphlet of a similar character, of which a manuscript copy was made by Mr. Williams, is entitled *Minnesota, a Description of the Natural, Political, Mechanical, and Agricultural State of the Country, Presenting Prospects for an Immediate Organization into a New Territorial Government,* by Rev. J. W. Putnam (Galena, W. C. E. Thomas, printer, 1849. 27 p.). Unfortunately the Wisconsin Historical Society copy which was used for this purpose is incomplete, four pages being lacking, and so far no complete copy has been located. The New York State Library had a copy which was destroyed in the fire of 1911. Information which would lead to the location of another copy of this pamphlet would be greatly appreciated. The society should have

a copy in its library, but if one can not be secured, the next best thing would be a complete transcript or photographic reproduction of a copy in some other library.

NEWS AND COMMENT

Illinois, Minnesota, and Missouri vie with each other in honoring the memory of General James Shields. A statue of General Shields was unveiled in the Minnesota state capitol last November, and recently another was erected on the courthouse square in Carrollton, Missouri. The Missouri legislature in 1913 appropriated ten thousand dollars for this purpose and wisely provided in the law that the commissioners in charge of the work should keep a record of their proceedings and deposit it with the State Historical Society of Missouri. This record, according to the April, 1915 number of the *Missouri Historical Review,* shows that the statue is of bronze, mounted upon a base of Missouri red granite, the whole standing nineteen feet high. It is the work of Frederick C. Hibbard of Chicago. A photograph of the monument and a biography of General Shields by Captain Henry A. Castle, doubtless similar to the sketch just published in volume 15 of the *Minnesota Historical Collections,* are embodied in the record. The inscriptions on the monument are:

Front

"General James Shields. Born in County Tyrone, Ireland, May 10, 1810. Died at Ottumwa, Iowa, June 1, 1879. Erected by the State of Missouri in recognition of his distinguished public service and exemplary private virtues."

Back

"Soldier, Statesman, Jurist. Cerro Gordo, Chapultepec. Brigadier General Mexican and Civil Wars. Winchester, Port Republic. United States Senator from Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri; Governor Oregon Territory; Commissioner U. S. Land Office; Justice Supreme Court of Illinois. Act Missouri General Assembly, 1913. Senator Wm. G. Busby, Author. Edward A. Dickson, Harry C. Brown, Hiram J. Wilcoxson, Commissioners."

The November, 1914 issue of the *Winona Normal Bulletin* contains the report of the committee of five appointed by the history round table of the Minnesota Educational Association, Professor

O. M. Dickerson, Winona State Normal School, chairman, on "Library Equipment for Teaching History in Minnesota High Schools." The data collected by the committee show that only about one half of the students in attendance at the high schools of the state are studying any history and only a little over six per cent are enrolled in courses in American history. With due allowance for the fact that many who enter high school do not finish, these figures would indicate that at least one half of those who graduate have no work in American history, while of those who fail to finish the course the proportion is much greater. It is difficult to see any good reason why the courses should be so arranged that twenty per cent of the students enrolled take ancient history; ten per cent, European history; and only six per cent, American history, in a given year.

The report shows a need for better equipment if library work in history of value is to be done by the high schools, and advocates a standardizing of such equipment. Selected topics, with references for library work, are presented for ancient and European history. Another committee of the history round table, with Dr. A. C. Krey of the University of Minnesota as chairman, is now engaged in the preparation of a working syllabus for the history teachers of the state.

The thirteenth *Year Book* of the Carnegie Institution of Washington for 1914 (Washington, 1915. 399 p.) contains the report of the director of the department of historical research, J. Franklin Jameson, for the period from November 1, 1913 to October 1, 1914 (pp. 158-68). Separates of these pages have also been issued. Students of the history of the Northwest will be especially interested in the statement in the report that Mr. Leland's work in Paris on the guide to the materials for American history in French archives was almost completed when the war put a stop to further operations. The investigations which have been or are being carried on in the archives of England, Scotland, and Switzerland will be of value to those interested in emigration from these countries to America. Progress is reported upon the atlas of the historical geography of the United States which is being prepared under the direction of Dr. Charles O. Paullin.

The *Catholic Historical Review* is the title of a new quarterly published by the Catholic University of America at Washington. If the promise of the first number (April, 1915) is fulfilled, this magazine will take rank with the *American Historical Review* and the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* as one of the most important and scholarly periodicals in the historical field in America. The first issue contains a number of articles followed by sections entitled Miscellany, Documents, Book Reviews, Notes and Comments, Bibliography, and Books Received. One of the articles begun in this number is "Flemish Franciscan Missionaries in North America (1674-1738)," by Right Rev. Camillus P. Maes, in which the early career of Father Hennepin is recounted. The Miscellany contains the beginning of a calendar compiled by Rev. Raymond Payne of the very rare and little known *Berichte der Leopoldinen-Stiftung im Kaiserthume Oesterreich,* which was published annually from 1829 to 1860 and contains a large amount of correspondence between Catholic missionaries in the United States and officials of the association. The first installment lists letters from various parts of the Northwest, which appears to have been the principal field of work in the early years at least. The compiler had access to the nearly complete set of the *Berichte* owned by Rev. A. I. Rezek of Houghton, Michigan, and he has given numerous illustrative extracts in the footnotes. In the section devoted to Bibliography a plan for a comprehensive bibliography of American Catholic history is outlined.

The Champlain Society has recently issued two volumes of its *Publications.* Volume 9 (Toronto, 1914. 617 p.), edited by Arthur G. Doughty, is a reprint of the second volume of Captain John Knox's *Historical Journal of the Campaigns in North America for the Years 1757, 1758, 1759, and 1760* (London, 1769). Volume 10 is reserved for the third volume of this *Journal* and volume 11 (Toronto, 1914. 555 p.) is the third and concluding volume of Marc Lescarbot's *History of New France,* reprinted from the third edition (Paris, 1617), together with an English translation and notes by W. L. Grant. Both of these volumes measure up to the high standards set by the society for its publications not only in editorial work, but also in the format.

The North Carolina History Commission has issued its *Fifth*

Biennial Report for the two years ending November 30, 1914. The commission has recently moved its quarters from the Capitol to a new fireproof building constructed by the state. One of its most important functions is the care and classification of the public archives. The correspondence of the governors since 1776, containing about twenty-three thousand manuscripts, has been classified and partly arranged in 158 boxes. This, the secretary reports, "is a mere beginning upon the immense collections which make up the body of the State's archives."

"The Activities of the State Historical Society of Iowa" are described at length in a paper by Professor Louis B. Schmidt, of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, in the March number of the *History Teacher's Magazine*. The article brings out clearly the emphasis which this institution has placed upon research and the publication of monographic studies in Iowa history and political science.

The *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, is publishing in installments a very interesting and valuable work entitled "Steamboats and Steamboatmen of the Upper Mississippi, descriptive, personal, and historical," by Captain George B. Merrick of Madison, Wisconsin. The publication began with the issue of September 20, 1913, and is expected to continue about five years. Accompanying each installment is a section entitled "The Old Boats—Additional Information from Men Who Know . . . Supplementary to Captain Merrick's Narrative."

A "History of the Democratic Party Organization in the Northwest, 1824-1840," by Homer J. Webster of the University of Pittsburgh, is published as the January number of the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* (120 p.). While not bearing directly on Minnesota history, the subject belongs to the background of the political history of the state, for a knowledge of the machinery of politics in Indiana, Illinois, and the other states of the Northwest before 1840 is essential to an understanding of Minnesota politics during the fifties. It is to be regretted that Dr. Webster confined himself so closely to the newspapers when there is a wealth of correspondence, both manuscript and printed, bearing on the subject.

The Great Northern Railway Company, through its agricultural extension department, F. R. Crane, agent, has recently published an interesting pamphlet entitled *How to Make the Farm Pay* (St. Paul, [1915]. 26 p.). A brief account of the company's campaign for improved methods of agriculture in the Northwest is followed by statistics of demonstration work on a large number of farms and by suggestions for improvement of conditions, methods, and results.

The folly of not providing fireproof buildings for valuable books and manuscripts was strikingly illustrated by the fire which destroyed the St. Paul Public Library on the night of April 27, 1915. Although the flames were discovered shortly after they broke out and the fire department put forth every effort to check them, yet the building and its contents were almost entirely destroyed. Of the one hundred and twenty-five thousand volumes in the building at the time practically all were consumed or rendered useless. About thirty-three thousand volumes were in circulation or at stations, and, very fortunately, two small lots of books had recently been stored in fireproof places outside the building. One of these consisted of about five hundred rare and out-of-print books, and the other was a collection of about four hundred volumes of St. Paul newspapers. The preservation of these newspaper files, which supplement those in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society, is a matter of congratulation to historical students. A serious loss of material of historical interest was the destruction of an extensive collection of St. Paul and Ramsey County documents.

The insurance on the contents of the building, about one hundred and forty thousand dollars, is considerably less than the value of the books lost, but this amount will provide a nucleus for the purchase of a new collection. Many of the books, pamphlets, records, and papers, however, can never be replaced with any amount of money. This is especially true of the manuscripts of two books dealing with the history of the Library of Congress and with the administration of university libraries, which Dr. Johnston, the librarian, had written and which were nearly ready for publication.

The burned building was one of the old landmarks of St. Paul.

It was erected more than sixty years ago, and has had a long and varied history, having served as public market, town hall, theater, temporary state capitol, forum, courthouse, and prize-fight arena. The library was reopened on Friday, April 30, in the old House of Hope Presbyterian Church on the corner of Fifth and Exchange streets, where it will have temporary quarters until the new fireproof library building, which has been under construction for some time, is finished.

The value of historical pageants as a means of arousing popular interest in history, particularly local history, is being more and more recognized. Those interested in the subject will welcome Ralph Davol's *Handbook of American Pageantry* (Taunton, Massachusetts, Davol Publishing Company, c. 1914. 236 p.). The first part of the book deals with the nature, purposes, and possibilities of pageantry; while the second part takes up various practical problems involved. Extracts from a few librettos and many photographs of pageant scenes are included.

An interesting old diary which recently came to light among the archives of the state prison at Stillwater, Minnesota, records that in 1852 a certain prisoner, on his refusal to work, was promptly and without argument shot and killed by the guard, whose act was later pronounced justifiable by the courts.

Minnesota Publications

The *Fourth Annual Report* to the Minnesota Forestry Board by the state forester, William T. Cox ([St. Paul], 1914. 99 p.), is an interesting and valuable résumé of the work of the forest service. Numerous illustrations, maps, and diagrams add to the value of the report.

The *Eighth Annual Report* of the state fire marshal, Charles E. Keller (St. Paul, [1915]. 52 p.), contains statistics on the losses due to fire in the state during the year 1914, together with sections devoted to the causes of fires, fire prevention, and detection and punishment of incendiarism.

The state department of banking has issued a *Report* by Albert H. Turrittin, superintendent of banks, for the biennium ending

July 31, 1914 (1914. 357 p.). The document deals with "the condition of the banks of discount and deposit, savings banks, trust companies, building and loan associations and other financial institutions."

The *Eighth Biennial Report* of the Minnesota Public Library Commission (St. Paul, [1915]. 48 p.) covers the two years ending July 31, 1914. The three parts of the report deal with field work, traveling libraries, and progress in Minnesota libraries. Two valuable maps illustrate the location of public and traveling libraries and the number of books in such libraries per hundred of population in each county. Statistics of public, free association, subscription, institutional, college, school, and special libraries are presented in tabular form. The secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society is, *ex-officio,* a member of the commission.

The *Thirtieth Annual Report* of the state railroad and warehouse commission (1915. 858 p.) covers the year ending November 30, 1914. Three quarters of the book is devoted to statistics which will be of great value to the future historian of transportation in the state.

The *Fourth Biennial Report* of the Minnesota Tax Commission (1914. 435 p.) contains discussions and statistics of present value to the economist and of future value to the economic historian. Neither the title page nor the letter of transmittal indicates when the biennium covered by the report began or ended.

The *Report* of the state highway commission for 1914 (1915. 242 p.) consists of a report of the state engineer describing the work of road construction in the state during the year. The folding map "showing state roads and state rural highways" which accompanies the report is not very well executed.

The state drainage commission has issued a *Report* (St. Paul, [1915]. 66 p.) describing the work done under its direction during the years 1913 and 1914. The pamphlet is illustrated with photographs and contains a number of valuable folding maps and charts.

George J. Ries, county auditor of Ramsey County, Minnesota, has had printed a *Financial Statement* for the fiscal year ending

December 31, 1914, showing receipts and disbursements of state, county, village, town, and school funds in the county during the period covered.

The *Report* of the department of assessor of the city of St. Paul and the county of Ramsey for the year 1914, by Frank L. Powers, assessor ([St. Paul, 1915]. 19 p.), contains information of value to city officials and property owners.

The *Thirty-third Annual Report* of the board of water commissioners of St. Paul (St. Paul, 1915. 36 p.) covers the year 1914. Besides extensive statistics the report contains a chart illustrative of the organization of the water bureau under the new charter.

The *Fifteenth Biennial Report* of the board of managers and the superintendent of the Minnesota State Public School at Owatonna (Minneapolis, 1915. pp. 333-72) sets forth the work of the institution during the biennium ending July 31, 1914.

In the *Eighteenth Biennial Report* of the board of directors and the superintendent of the Minnesota School for the Blind (Faribault, 1915. 59 p.) is presented a survey of the work of the school for the two years ending July 31, 1914. Of especial interest is the account of the Field and Employment Agency for the Blind, authorized by the legislature of 1913. The agency secretary has been traveling through the state, looking up the blind, ascertaining "their personal condition, means of support, degree of dependence, and general status in the community of which they form a part"—the first step taken by the agency in the solution of the problem of assisting the adult blind to be self-supporting.

Number 3 of volume 11 of the *Carleton College Bulletin* is the annual *Catalogue Number* (Northfield, March, 1915. 136 p.).

Volume 17, number 2 of the *Bulletin* of the University of Minnesota comprises *The Annual Register* for the year 1913-14 (Minneapolis, 1915. 202 p.). Besides general information about the university, it contains lists of the faculty and officers of administration, of students, and of degrees granted in 1913.

In the *Twenty-second Annual Report* of the agricultural experiment station of the University of Minnesota for the year ending June 30, 1914 (University Farm, St. Paul, 1915. 72 p.) the director, Dean Albert F. Woods, reviews at some length the progress made in the experimental and research projects of the various divisions of the station.

The St. Mary's Hospital of Rochester, conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis, has issued its *Twenty-fifth Annual Report* for the year 1914 (Rochester, 1915. 43 p.).

The League of Minnesota Municipalities held its second annual convention at Mankato, October 21 and 22, 1914. The *Proceedings* ([Minneapolis, 1914]. 160 p.) was prepared by Professor G. A. Gesell, head of the municipal reference bureau of the University of Minnesota, and contains important papers, reports, and discussions.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the state of Minnesota has published the *Proceedings* of its fifty-third annual convocation, held in St. Paul, October 13, 1914 (St. Paul, 1914. 56 p.).

The *Proceedings* of the Masonic Veteran Association of Minnesota at its twenty-third annual reunion in St. Paul, January 19 and 20, 1915 (vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 535-80) contains biographical sketches of thirty-six recently deceased members.

The Third Minnesota Infantry Association has published the *Proceedings* of the thirtieth reunion of its members held in St. Anthony Park, September 9, 1914 (10 p.).

The Minneapolis branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church has issued its *Thirty-first Annual Report* for the year ending October 1, 1914 ([Minneapolis, 1914]. 97 p.). In addition to the official minutes of the annual meeting held at Detroit, October 1 to 5, 1914, reports of the officers concerned with the various activities of the society and the articles of incorporation and by-laws of the Minneapolis branch are included.

The Guild of Catholic Women of St. Paul, Minnesota, has pre-

sented a survey of the work of the society in its *Eighth Annual Report* for the year 1914-15 (32 p.).

The *Minutes* of the thirty-eighth annual meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Minnesota, held at Red Wing, September 22-25, 1914 (Minneapolis, 1914. 149 p.), besides minutes of the convention, contains reports of officers, addresses, reports of branches and department work, and a directory of district and local unions and allied organizations in the state by districts and counties.

The *Annual Report* of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs for the year 1914-15 (Minneapolis, [1915]. 133 p.) includes, in addition to reports of officers and committees, a directory of affiliated clubs arranged alphabetically by towns, with courses of study, number of members, and names of officers; state organizations; data on district and county organizations; and the constitution and by-laws of the federation.

Studies in the Marketing of Farm Products, issued as number 4 of the *Studies in the Social Sciences* of the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, 1915. 113 p.), contains three papers by Professor L. D. H. Weld and five by students in agricultural economics. Most of the papers deal with conditions in Minnesota.

Secondary Stresses and Other Problems in Rigid Frames: A New Method of Solution, by George Alfred Maney, instructor in structural engineering, University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, 1915. 17 p.), is the first number of a series entitled *Studies in Engineering,* issued by the University of Minnesota.

Minnesota Public Utility Rates, Gas—Electric—Water (University of Minnesota, *Current Problems,* no. 3), by Gerhard A. Gesell, assistant professor of economics, University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, 1914. 254 p.), is the second of a series of studies which are being conducted by the municipal reference bureau of the general extension division of the university.

Community Centers, by Raymond V. Phelan, instructor in economics, University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, 1915. 15 p.), is a recent publication of the general extension division of the University of Minnesota, issued as number 25 of the *General Series* of the university's *Bulletin.*

The Minnesota school of mines experiment station of the University of Minnesota has issued as its *Bulletin,* no. 3, *Preliminary Concentration Tests on Cuyuna Ores* by William R. Appleby and Edmund Newton (Minneapolis, 1915. 66 p.).

The Source of the Father of Waters, by William T. Cox, state forester (St. Paul, 1914. 22 p.), issued as Minnesota Forest Service, *Bulletin,* no. 3, is a sketch of the exploration of the headwaters of the Mississippi River; there is added a description of Itasca State Park and information about its management.

The Medical School of the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Foundation for the Promotion of Medical Education and Research ([Minneapolis, 1915]. 14 p.) is a pamphlet issued by a university committee and presents arguments in favor of the affiliation of the university with the foundation.

Saint Paul, Minnesota, a pageant of history, by Elizabeth Clay Rogers Magoffin, was presented at the Y. W. C. A. Auditorium in St. Paul on the evening of May 22, 1914. The poem has been privately printed by the author in an edition of one hundred copies (1914. 14 p.).

The Men and Products of Saint Paul, "The Star City of the North Star State," together with the 3rd Annual Saint Paul Almanack for 1915 (St. Paul, [Corning Advertising Agency], 1915. 64 p.) contains, in addition to the usual medley of more or less amusing quips and quirks, cuts, with biographical data, of about a score of prominent St. Paul business and professional men. It is issued as a premium for subscribers to the *Razoo.*

The *Directory* of the Minneapolis public schools for the year 1914-15 ([Minneapolis, 1914]. 86 p.) contains lists of officials and teachers; several pages are devoted to matters of general information. A similar *Directory* for the St. Paul public schools has also been issued (St. Paul, 1914. 55 p.).

In the *Yale Law Journal,* November, 1914, pages 12 to 33, appeared an article by Rome G. Brown, of Minneapolis, on "The Water-Power Problem in the United States." The article has been reprinted in pamphlet form.

The Scope of Charity, by Rev. James Donahoe (2d ed., St.

Paul, 1914. 339 p.), presents a treatise on charity from a Catholic point of view. A Minnesota man, the author makes use of Minnesota examples and discusses conditions and endeavors in the state. Some of the subjects treated are mothers' pensions, the minimum wage, social settlement work, the liquor problem, and state charitable institutions.

The following articles of interest on economic subjects by John H. Gray, professor of economics in the University of Minnesota, have been reprinted as separates: *The Public View of the Railroads' Need for an Increase of Rates* from the *Journal of Political Economy,* 23:105-27 (February, 1915); *Public Administration and Practical Training for Public Service* (11 p.) from the *Proceedings* of the First National Conference on Universities and Public Service, New York, May 12 and 13, 1914; *Economics and the Law* (23 p.) from the *Supplement* to the *American Economic Review,* volume 5, number 1 (March, 1915). Another article by Dr. Gray, entitled "The Control of Public Utilities with Special Reference to Current Theories of Valuation," appeared in volume 1, number 3 of the *Discussions* of the Economic Club of San Francisco (pp. 3-38).

A "Memoir of Newton Horace Winchell" by Warren Upham is published in volume 26 of the *Bulletin* of the Geological Society of America (1915. pp. 27-46). It concludes with an elaborate bibliography of Winchell's writings arranged according to dates of publication from 1861 to 1914 and containing 270 items. A few separates have been issued.

The Album by Frank Wing (c. 1914. 96 p.) consists of pictures "shown to the new neighbor by Rebecca Sparks Peters, aged eleven." It is a reproduction of a series of clever cartoons which appeared in the *Minneapolis Journal.* "Turn Over" is the suggestive cover title.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS, volume 1. Reprint of the *Annals* of the society published 1850-1856, containing miscellaneous papers and sketches. 1902. xii, 430 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 2. Miscellaneous documents and papers. 1860-1867. 294 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 3. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1870-1880. viii, 433 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 4. *History of the City of St. Paul and County of Ramsey, Minnesota,* by J. Fletcher Williams. 1876. 475 p. Cloth, $3.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 5. *History of the Ojibway Nation,* by William W. Warren. 1885. 535 p. Cloth, $3.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 6. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1887-1894. iv, 556 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 7. *The Mississippi River and Its Source,* by J. V. Brower. 1893. xv, 360 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 8. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1895-1898. xii, 542 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 9. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1901. xiv, 694 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 10. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1905. xvi, viii, 938 p. in 2 parts. Cloth, $5.00

COLLECTIONS, volume 11. *Itasca State Park, an illustrated History,* by J. V. Brower. 1905. 285 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 12. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1909. xx, 827 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 13. *Lives of the Governors of Minnesota,* by James H. Baker. 1908. xii, 480 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 14. *Minnesota Biographies, 1655-1912,* by Warren Upham and Mrs. Rose B. Dunlap. 1912. xxviii, 892 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 15. Miscellaneous papers, sketches, and memoirs. 1915. xv, 872 p. Cloth, $2.50

COLLECTIONS, volume 16, part 1. *The Weathering of Aboriginal Stone Artifacts, no. 1: A Consideration of the Paleoliths of Kansas,* by N. H. Winchell. 1913. xiv, 186 p. Cloth, $1.00

THE ABORIGINES OF MINNESOTA: *A Report Based on the Collections of Jacob V. Brower, and on the Field Surveys and Notes of Alfred J. Hill and Theodore H. Lewis,* by N. H. Winchell. 1911. xiv, 761 p., quarto. ¾ leather, $5.00

MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN, volume 1, number 1. *Relation of the State to Historical Work,* by Clarence W. Alvord; Minnesota Historical Society Notes. February, 1915. 34 p. Paper, $0.15

MINNESOTA HISTORY BULLETIN, volume 1, number 2. *The Minnesota State Archives, Their Character, Condition, and Historical Value,* by Herbert A. Kellar; Reviews and Notes. May, 1915. Paper, $0.15